

NONPROFIT FAQs

What is the Northshore Collective Impact Challenge? The Northshore Collective Impact Challenge is a collaborative competition that encourages nonprofits to join forces in tackling critical social issues through innovative programs or services. The winning team will receive an initial capital investment of \$125,000 to launch their proposal. Based on accomplishing measurable goals, the team may receive an additional \$100,000 in year 2 and \$75,000 in year 3.

Beginning on the Northshore, this initiative will expand statewide, with each region tailoring the approach to its unique challenges. The winning solution may also serve as a prototype for future efforts, helping to reshape how funding is allocated—prioritizing collaboration, long-term investment, and the resources necessary to drive meaningful, lasting change.

Who can participate? The lead applicant must be a 501c3 organization in good standing. The applicant must partner with at least one other nonprofit organization to be eligible. Additional partner organizations can include other nonprofits, government agencies, educational institutions, or businesses.

Can a nonprofit organization participate in multiple teams? Yes, nonprofit organizations can participate in more than one application.

What is the prize amount? The winning team will receive an initial capital investment of \$125,000. Based on accomplishing measurable goals, the team may receive an additional \$100,000 in year 2 and \$75,000 in year 3.

How will the funds be distributed? The Northshore Community Foundation will manage the funds for the Northshore Collective Impact Fund and Challenge winner. As the initiative expands statewide, community foundations in each region will oversee their respective funds and distribute resources in alignment with the agreements established with the selected initiatives.

How will the winner be determined? The winning team will be selected based on the strength of their collaborative proposal and results of the Northshore Collective Impact Challenge at Palette Northshore, judged by a panel of independent experts.

Application Process:

What are the basic requirements for participation?

An applicant must:

- Be a 501c3 nonprofit in good standing with the IRS
- Form a meaningful partnership with at least one other nonprofit organization. Additional partners can include other nonprofits, government agencies, educational institutions, or businesses, with collaboration serving as the foundation for the initiative's success.
- Submit a comprehensive plan including problem analysis, solution design, implementation plan, budget, and key performance metrics. There is no template for the application, however, it should not exceed 10 pages, single spaced total, including attachments.
- Demonstrate how all parties bring resources to the collaborative partnership

Selection Process:

How are proposals evaluated?

Proposals are evaluated based on:

- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Feasibility
- Potential impact
- Scalability
- Sustainability – Recurring Revenue, Earned Income, or Secured Long-Term Funding Source

Who evaluates the proposals? A diverse panel of independent experts will evaluate proposals and select the winner of the Northshore Collective Impact Challenge. This model will be expanded to other regions in the coming years, adapting to each community's unique needs.

Implementation:

What is the initial program timeline?

- Months 1-3: Campaign launch and application period
- Month 4: Finalists announcement
- Month 5: Pitch event and winner announcement
- Month 6: Program execution

What support do winners receive beyond funding?

Winners receive:

- Ongoing mentorship and capacity-building support from field experts
- Access to Palette Programming and Events
- Marketing exposure